

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1.     A method for automatically processing electronic mail, comprising:  
2           loading an electronic mail message;  
3           removing non-textual information from the electronic mail message;  
4           locating a first portion from the electronic mail message;  
5           generating a first code smaller than the first portion and indicative of the  
6     first portion;  
7           locating a second portion from the electronic mail message;  
8           generating a second code smaller than the second portion and indicative of  
9     the second portion; and  
10          storing the first code and the second code.

1           2.     The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim  
2     1, wherein the storing the first code and the second code comprises storing the first code  
3     and second code to semiconductor memory.

1           3.     The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim  
2     1, wherein the locating the first portion uses a different algorithm than the locating a  
3     second portion.

1           4.     The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim  
2     1, further comprising:  
3           locating a second through  $n^{\text{th}}$  portions; and  
4           interrupting the locating the second through  $n^{\text{th}}$  portions when a total  
5     number of portions reaches a predetermined count.

1           5.     The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim  
2     1, wherein the non-textual information includes at least one of header information, a  
3     subject line, an internet protocol (IP) address, routing information, hypertext markup  
4     language information, and an embedded applet.

1           6.     The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim  
2     1, further comprising removing everything from the electronic mail message except a  
3     message body.

1 7. The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim  
2 1, further comprising arranging the first code and the second code according to numerical  
3 value.

1 8. A method for automatically processing electronic mail, comprising:  
2 loading an electronic mail message;  
3 selecting a first number of portions from the electronic mail message;  
4 generating a second number of codes from the first number of portions,  
5 wherein the first number and the second number are equal;  
6 determining if the first number exceeds a predetermined value;  
7 selecting a third number of portions from the electronic mail message;  
8 generating a fourth number of codes from the third number of portions,  
9 wherein the third number and the fourth number are equal; and  
10 storing the fourth number of codes.

1 9. The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim  
2 8, further comprising removing non-textual information from the electronic mail message.

1 10. The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim  
2 9, wherein the non-textual information includes at least one of header information, a  
3 subject line, an internet protocol (IP) address, routing information, hypertext markup  
4 language information, and an embedded applet.

1 11. The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim  
2 8, further comprising interrupting the selecting the third number of portions from the  
3 electronic mail message if the third number reaches a predetermined count.

1 12. The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim  
2 8, further comprising arranging the fourth number of codes according to numerical value.

1 13. The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim  
2 8, wherein each code is smaller than its respective portion.

1 14. The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim  
2 8, wherein the generating the second number of codes includes processing the first

3 number of portions with an algorithm selected from the group consisting of a checksum, a  
4 cyclic redundancy check, and a hash.

1 15. A method for automatically processing electronic mail, comprising:  
2 loading an electronic mail message;  
3 selecting a plurality of portions from the electronic mail message;  
4 interrupting the selecting the plurality of portions when the plurality of  
5 portions reaches a predetermined count;  
6 generating a plurality of codes from the plurality of portions, wherein the  
7 number of codes and the number of portions are equal to each other; and  
8 storing the plurality of codes.

1 16. The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim  
2 15, further comprising removing non-textual information from the electronic mail  
3 message.

1 17. The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim  
2 16, wherein the non-textual information includes at least one of header information, a  
3 subject line, an internet protocol (IP) address, routing information, hypertext markup  
4 language information, and an embedded applet.

1 18. The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim  
2 15, further comprising:  
3 determining if a count of the plurality of portions reaches a predetermined  
4 threshold; and  
5 selecting a second plurality of portions from the electronic mail message  
6 based upon the determining if the count of the plurality of portions reaches the  
7 predetermined threshold.

1 19. The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim  
2 15, further comprising arranging the plurality of codes according to numerical value.

1 20. The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim  
2 15, wherein each portion consumes more bits than its respective code.

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